

## RAILWAYS IN MEXICO TRAVERSE LARGE AREA

Roads in the Northern Section All  
Equipped With American  
Locomotives.

Subject of an Informative Bulletin  
Just Issued by the National  
Geographic Society.

The railways of northern Mexico, the use of which was fraught with grave moment to the punitive expeditionary force under Gen. Pershing a few days ago, because of the serious question of transporting supplies, is the subject of an informative bulletin just issued by the National Geographic Society of Washington.

"The railway system of Mexico has a mileage which exceeds by 25 per cent the combined mileage of all the other countries of North and South America, with the exception of Canada, the United States, Argentina and Brazil," says the bulletin. "This vast system has been built up in forty-five years, for, while there was a tiny track from Mexico City to the suburb of Guadalupe as early as 1854, it was not until 1873 that President Lerdo inaugurated the first important line, that which runs from Vera Cruz to the national capital.

President Lerdo was opposed to the building of railways in Mexico, for he believed, it is said, that these arid plains afforded a certain security against the political and commercial influence of the United States.

### Diaz Had Broader Vision.

"President Porfirio Diaz had a far broader vision, however, and during his long regime railroad building was one of his chief concerns, so that when he retired from the presidency these steel arteries of commerce had crossed the United States border at six places—Laredo, El Paso, Nogales, Eagle Pass, Presidio and Brownsville, and 11,000,000 people were carried annually, together with 11,000,000 tons of freight.

"One of the most interesting features of the railway system under Diaz was his insistence that the American managers of the merged Mexican national railways should employ, whenever possible, Mexican conductors, telegraph operators, flagmen and section foremen. In this way he hoped to build up a substantial middle class from among the peons, one of the crying needs of the country.

"The first railroad connecting Mexico City with the United States border was that to El Paso, opened by President Diaz thirty-two years ago last month. This line has been extended in recent years to Tampico on the east and to Guadalajara on the west, and now embraces a system of 4,000 miles.

### Use American Locomotives.

"All of the railways in northern Mexico are equipped with American locomotives, passenger and freight cars, and Pullman accommodations are to be had on most of the lines. The first-class passenger rates are slightly higher than on American lines, but there is a lower second-class rate, by which the peons profit. Distances are measured in kilometers—4 cents first class and 1½ cents second class. Restaurants at the important stations serve table d'hôte meals for \$1, and the trains usually make twenty-five-minute stops for breakfast, luncheon and dinner.

"The peons are like children in their eagerness to ride on the trains and in the mining sections where small lines are used in handling ores it is a difficult matter to keep the natives off the cars.

"Although Mexico produces a large quantity of coal, it is of a cheap grade, and the railways, as a rule, either import their fuel or else burn oil, which is produced in great abundance, especially in the Tampico region.

### Operated on Mexican Time.

"The lines in the north are operated on Mexican time, which is twenty-four minutes faster than American time at El Paso and thirty-six minutes faster at Laredo.

"The most interesting railway in Mexico is that 192-mile stretch of track which connects the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. It was here that El Presidente Diaz dreamed of a ship railroad which could lift vessels by huge derricks from the harbor of Salina Cruz and swing them across the continent to Coatzacoalcas, where they would be lowered into the roadstead.

"The proposed Pan-American railway, being built by American capital, is expected some day to establish a direct rail communication between New York City and Buenos Aires."

## The Fight Against Dope.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

A little more than a year has passed since the Harrison anti-narcotic law went into effect, and it is now possible in some degree to make an accounting of it. There is no doubt but what it has been effective, and it is also certain that its success has been won at a terrific expense in pain and crime. Thousands of persons have suffered, and some of them have died, as a result of being deprived of drugs to which their whole system of smuggling has been built up to supply their insistent demand, and with this system the federal officers have waged a dramatic battle.

The Harrison law has frequently been referred to as the most comprehensive and effective law yet devised for minimizing the traffic in drugs. It marks an epoch in the history of anti-narcotic legislation because of the fact that it provides a new and original method of controlling the manufacture, sale and use of prescribed drugs from the time they are imported until they reach the consumer. It requires every one who handles narcotics to register, pay a tax and keep careful record of all transactions on forms sold by the government. Being itself not a regulatory or a police measure, the federal law cannot be expected to take the place of the state laws designed to restrict the sale and use of habit-forming drugs. Legislators, recognizing the limitations of the federal law, have, during the past year, endeavored to elaborate on the provisions of this law by the enactment of state laws which would serve to control some of the many features of drug abuse not touched by the federal law.

The day that this new law went into effect a prominent business man asked to have a prescription refilled at a pharmacy. He craved, Washington pharmacist. On inquiry he explained,

innocently, that it had been given him, not by his own physician, but by a physician in good standing in New York, and always cured him of the grip. He admitted that he felt grippily very often. The clerk told him that under the new law the prescription could not be refilled, as it contained heroin. It was decided to fill it without the heroin, but the effect was not as before. He longed for the drug he had become accustomed to, and it took several months' treatment to cure him. This druggist was one of 48,000 who registered as the law required and whose aid was solicited in enforcing it. There were also 125,000 physicians, 37,000 dentists, 10,000 veterinarians, 3,000 hospitals and 1,100 wholesale druggists who registered under the law. The co-operation of nearly a quarter of a million persons was obtained, in addition to the government officials and police whose business it was to see the law carried out.

A short time after the law went into effect two young men slouched along one of the streets in New York's East Side, their pale faces and twitching lips showing they were in the agony that comes to the drug addict when deprived of his stimulant. A strange Italian stopped them, and, in broken English, explained that he had a substitute for cocaine which was twice as effective. With eager, shaking hands they counted out the price, seized the tablets offered and crushed them on their tongues. Within ten minutes both dropped senseless. The overdose of the powerful substitute was too much for their weak bodies. They died within the hour. During that day ten other men applied to the New York police for treatment. They said that the drug market had been cornered and only the wealthy could afford a supply.

There were 1,021 drug users treated at the Metropolitan Hospital, New York, during the first month of 1915. There were sixty-two voluntary drug patients at Bellevue during January of this year.

The new law did from the start break up a great deal of the traffic in narcotics. But the underworld is not so easily conquered. In the large cities the "dope syndicates" have been systematically smuggling and distributing the drugs and have defied the law. In a raid in San Francisco two Chinese women were found guarding \$50,000 worth of smuggled opium. It was believed to have been shipped from Mexico, dropped off steamships through porches by Chinese coolies at night in tin cans, picked up by the opium ring and brought to the port in launches. It was then shipped to a depot on the water front, transferred to trucks and boxes and sent to headquarters. The tin cans were painted black and could not be seen floating on the waves at night. In another instance seventy cases of opium, containing 100 five-ounce cans each and valued at approximately \$450,000, were intercepted by customs officials. This is said to be the largest single seizure ever made in the United States.

But all of the smuggling is not through ports of entry. The organizations also work across the international boundaries.

Other Methods of Smuggling. The police believe that the woman recently arrested in Detroit and known as the "Queen of the Dopes" is the head of a gigantic organization which has been bringing in immense quantities from Canada. The dope is brought in under neckties, in false cigarettes or memo books and in numerous other ways. One hunchback who was arrested on suspicion was found not to be a hunchback at all. His hunch was to carry dope.

Difficulty is also encountered on the Mexican line. One drug store in Juarez, Mexico, was found to be shipping \$300 worth of drugs into the United States every day. It has also been discovered that drugs have been mailed into the

United States in the folds of foreign newspapers.

The authorities also have been successful in detecting some of the distributing organizations. Detectives coaled themselves in the "House of a Thousand Dreams," a flat in Minneapolis, and awaited the "finger nail rap," which is the password of the whole dope-consuming and dope-dispensing fraternity. The seized drugs, valued at \$1,200, had been stolen from a wholesale drug house, and it is believed that the flat had been used as a regular headquarters for dispensing them to addicts who called there.

Some of the hardest organizations to fight are those in the prisons. One keeper carried the dope to the bars in his artificial eye. About a half dozen keepers at the Tombs reported seeing sensible prisoners eating a portion of shirt front or chewing a cuff. The investigation which followed showed that dope was in the starching solution in the prison laundry and the prisoners had been informed by means of the usual "underground telegraph."

Visits from limousines bearing well-dressed women resulted in the seizure of a bundle of clothes. They carried on a whole outfit of clothes and rushing to the rear of the place, burst open a door and found one of the most elaborate smoking layouts that has ever been seen in this country.

In another raid on a dentist's office a dope cabinet was found in the seat of the operating chair. When the patient sat in the chair he got a filling of dope. These cases are typical of what the revenue men contend with. There have been 325 convictions and about 220 sentences imposed. There were also a number of cases which were dropped upon recommendation of the United States attorneys because they were covered by the state laws.

It is, therefore, evident that under the Harrison law the traffic in habit-forming drugs is being effectively regulated as Regulation have been compelled to apply to hospitals and other institutions for treatment. But the law is not perfect, nor is it claimed to be. The old argument has been advanced that the law interferes with personal liberty. Some doctors have objected to being tagged like automobiles. Others would make the law more rigid and wipe out all exemptions. It is probable, however, that the effects of the law will be studied for another year, at least, before any change is made in it.

### Law Effective

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### TRIBES TO PROTEST.

Object to Issue of Land Patents and Abolition of Indian Bureau.

PENDLETON, Ore., April 18.—Indian tribes of the Pacific northwest have prepared a protest against the proposal of the government to issue patents to Indian lands, abandon the bureau of Indian affairs and leave the individuals of the race to work out their own salvation. As a protest against such legislation the Indians, it was announced, have arranged to send to Washington one of the leading men of the Yakima tribe. They assert that the experience of the government in the lastest case of patents thus far demonstrates that the Indian cannot cope with the white man and that protection is necessary.

The lands of the majority of those who have received patents in the past are either mortgaged or alienated, according to the announcement.

### Gen. Barry Back From Philippines.

MAJ. Gen. Thomas H. Barry, recently relieved of command of the United States Army in the Philippines, has arrived at San Francisco on his way to Chicago, where he will assume command of the central military department.

The pet birds of this country last year consumed 4,704,823 pounds of bird seed.

## MOUNT RAINIER VOTES WATER-SEWER BONDS

Improvements Authorized to Cost  
\$100,000 and Work Will Start  
in Few Weeks.

Special Correspondence of The Star.

HYATTSVILLE, April 19.—In compliance with an act of the recent legislature, the voters of Mount Rainier, Prince Georges county, Monday directed the mayor and common council to issue bonds in the sum of \$100,000 for the installation of a water system and sewerage plant. The vote was 160 to 42. The same proposition carried in 1914, but the legality of the election was contested and the court of appeals declared the election void. The improvements authorized yesterday will be begun within the next few weeks, the necessary surveys, etc., being completed.

### Two Mayorality Nominees.

At a citizens' convention held here Monday night Councilman John G. Holden of the third ward and William F. Pierce were nominated for the office of mayor. The election is to be held May 1. William T. Casey was elected chairman of the convention with H. L. Steinhagen as secretary. Former Mayor Harry W. Shepherd nominated Councilman Holden, seconded by Matthew F. Halloran. Mr. Pierce was nominated by J. Frank Lillard, County Treasurer. Edward A. Fuller nominated William A. Shepherd for town treasurer. Mr. Shepherd will have no opposition at the election. Messrs. Holden, Pierce and Shepherd accepted the nominations in appropriate remarks. In the first ward Councilman Harry P. Welsh and J. T. Pruitt were nominated for councilmen from the first ward. T. Hammond Welsh from the second ward and Charles W. Clagett and Fred A. Soules from the third ward.

## WOULD INTEREST CHILDREN.

Anti-Saloon League Seeks Aid in Fight for National Prohibition.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.  
COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 18.—Special plans for enlisting young people's organizations in the fight for national prohibition will be made by the Anti-Saloon League of America at its national convention, to be held June 26 to 29 in Indianapolis, according to announcement of the program committee. A number of national organizations of young men and women interested in the abolition of the liquor traffic will meet simultaneously with the Anti-Saloon League convention. The Eastern College oratorical contest will be a feature of the opening day of the convention.

Campaign plans will be developed at the convention for co-ordination of state prohibition campaigns as well as in the national fight.

Among the speakers at the meetings will be: Dr. Howard H. Russell, founder of the Anti-Saloon League and general secretary of the Lincoln League; Bishop Luther B. Wilson of New York, president of the league; Daniel A. Poling of Boston, former prohibition candidate for Governor of Ohio; Rev. E. S. Shumaker, superintendent of the league in Indiana; John G. Willacy, former liberal leader of Texas, and Gov. Moses Alexander of Idaho.

Sunday afternoon, June 26, the day preceding the formal convening of the convention, a mass meeting of men from Indianapolis and central Indiana will be held at Tomlinson Hall. The collegiate oratorical contest is set for Monday afternoon, June 26. That afternoon a rally of young persons' organizations will be held. Round table

discussions will feature the program for Tuesday morning. Delegates from Canada will tell of the successful fight for prohibition in the Dominion.

## NEW FORUM BILL PROPOSED.

Substitute for Pending Measure in Representative Johnson's Hands.

A draft of a substitute public forum measure has been given to Chairman Johnson of the House District committee by E. J. Ward, public forum lecturer, who has been active in behalf of the Johnson-Hollis measure. Representative Johnson has not introduced the proposed bill, but it is possible that the subcommittee will make use of its provision in considering the bill which is now before it. The proposed substitute provides for a few minor changes in detail, and does not affect the principles of the original bill.

## FOR CLEARANCE CONTROL.

Railway Employees Want I. C. C. to Supervise Track Conditions.

Representatives of organizations of engineers, firemen and conductors urged before the House interstate commerce committee yesterday legislation empowering the interstate commerce commission to regulate "clearances" about railroad tracks.

They pointed out that the increased size of engines and other moving equipment endangered the lives of railroad employees where the obstructions along side and above tracks were not changed to meet the newer conditions of equipment, and that the commission should have power to regulate and enforce heights and proximity of structures along railroad rights of way.

## RUSSIAN TRADE COMING.

American Manufacturers Issue Bulletin Regarding Conditions There.

NEW YORK, April 19.—In a bulletin issued to American business men by the National Association of Manufacturers today regarding trade conditions in Russia during and subsequent to the war the following information is supplied: "Notwithstanding the low purchasing power of the Russian ruble, which today is \$0.32, the normal being \$0.515, the bulletin says, 'which means the payment of rubles 3.12 for \$1 (a depreciation of the ruble to about 38 per cent of par value), Russian buyers visiting the United States to fill orders for special articles of American production and the many commercial inquiries from the development of direct trade between Russia and the United States, provided certain obstacles are removed to the advantage of both great and friendly countries.

These obstacles are many and varied in character and economic bearing, but none, however, calls for special diplomacy in its adjustment. "Many financial exchanges and chambers of commerce, as well as associations of industrialists, have collected much material, and are now far advanced in its digest for the purpose of proper presentation to technical commissions of the various Russian ministries and departments, which in their own way are now approaching the summarization of desiderata and the consequent legislation essential to conclusion of a new treaty of commerce based upon a sincere realization of the benefits and advantages to be derived from it by both parties thereto after the end of the war."



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# Sworn Statements Made by the Washington Newspapers Semi-Annually to the Post Office Department as Required by Law.

A summary of the changes in circulation of all of the Washington newspapers for each six months during the past two years may provide interesting matter for the consideration of advertisers.

NAME OF NEWSPAPERS.		Daily Average Six Months Ending April 1, 1916.	Daily Average Six Months Ending October 1, 1915.	Daily Average Six Months Ending April 1, 1915.	Daily Average Six Months Ending October 1, 1914.
STAR...	Daily...	75,732	68,958	69,858	65,208
	Sunday...	54,007	50,975	51,170	48,146
POST...	D. & S. (Daily & Sunday Avg.)	35,463	34,144	37,164	38,370
	Sunday...	.....	.....	53,846	53,854
HERALD	Daily...	28,526	29,812	30,198	34,690
	Sunday...	.....	.....	.....	.....
TIMES...	Daily...	39,944	46,381	43,106	49,838
	Sunday...	39,465	41,922	39,224	42,905

The figures furnished the Post Office Department by The Star were for papers actually sold for cash, and do not include exchanges, papers given for service or to advertisers, etc.

The law does not require a separate statement of Sunday editions. The Post during the last year has made no separate return for Sunday, and the Herald has never published any statement of its Sunday edition covering the period of six months.

The constantly increasing circulation of The Star year after year is a source of much comment. It is one of the notable economic conditions of the community.